

# THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### The Arrest of Steve McWilliams by DEA Agents

Earlier today I was informed by Assistant Chief George Saldamando of the San Diego Police Department that medicinal marijuana activist Steve Mc Williams was arrested this morning by federal DEA agents. He was charged with the cultivation of marijuana.

It is mind-boggling that the DEA has chosen to use taxpayer dollars and precious agency time and resources to arrest someone who is ill.

Further, I find it incredible that, in a nation riddled with drug dealers pushing crack, heroin, GHB, methamphetamine and any number of other devastating narcotics, the DEA is focusing on an individual who is trying to make medicinal marijuana available to terminally and chronically ill people. Where is the compassion and logic in this enforcement strategy?

If it turns out that the DEA is targeting Steve McWilliams simply because he is the most visible figure in this discussion, then there is clearly something wrong in how the DEA is setting their priorities. Sadly, and inexcusably, it seems as if the DEA is using their enforcement power as a way to show the country that the federal government will always trump the activists who publicly questions their laws, even if they have the support of the voters behind them.

Proposition 215 was overwhelmingly passed by the voters of California. For the DEA to arrest someone who is simply seeking to follow the intent of that law is heavy-handed at best, and uncompassionate and illogical at worst. This is not what the DEA should be spending our taxpayer dollars on. Steve McWilliams isn't a threat to anyone, and, to many people, he's actually a hero who is trying to improve the quality of life of people who are ill

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